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REPORT FROM MR. GURLEY.

XENIA, OHIO, FEB. 13, 1839.

TO JUDGE WILKESON,

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Am. Colonization Society.

My Dear Sir,—It was one month on the 10th instant, since I left Washington. Although I have written to the Committee several times, it has occurred to me that it might not be useless to comprise in a brief general report, what has occurred, of interest to the cause, in this period, under my observation, the amounts that may be expected in the course of a short time, from the places I have visited, and to make some suggestions as to the measures to be adopted to secure more decided favor and efficient aid to the Society from the citizens of the west.

At Wheeling, I addressed two public meetings, and found the community much interested in the scheme of Colonization. The meetings were held in the Methodist church, the clergy of all denominations gave their countenance to the cause, the Managers of the Auxiliary Society renewed their efforts, and by the generous exertions of a few friends a subscription of about \$700 was obtained, which I hope will be paid on or before the 4th of July.

At Zanesville, in this state, I was permitted to address a united meeting of the several religious denominations on Sabbath evening, in the Baptist church, from which many were obliged to retire for want of room. Another large congregation (including a few free colored persons) assembled in the same place on Tuesday evening to hear further statements, and replies to inquiries concerning the scheme proposed by some colored persons; and at these two meetings collections were obtained, amounting (including some small sums afterwards added) to \$98. The Rev. Mr. Culbertson, the able President and friend of the Zanesville Colonization Society, stated that these collections would not prevent the usual annual effort to raise funds on the Fourth of July, and I feel assured that some hundreds of dollars more may be expected from our friends in Zanesville at that time.

At Columbus, I addressed five meetings on the subject of African Colonization; the *first* a large meeting in the Hall of the House of Representatives, many of the members of the Legislature being present, and when it was resolved to reorganize the State Society as Auxiliary to the American Colonization Society; the *second*, of free colored persons, who though much prejudiced against the Colony of Liberia, appear now to regard it with interest, and to think of it as a home inviting their consideration; the *third*.

meeting of the Ladies' Society, which I trust will hereafter contribute at least one hundred dollars a year to the Society; the *fourth*, a meeting of gentlemen, who revived and reorganized the State Society with bright hopes and fair prospects of success; and the *fifth*, a public meeting to awaken additional interest in the object, and which was favored with instructive and impressive remarks from the Rev. Dr. Hoge and from Dr. Drake of Cincinnati. The subscription commenced in Columbus exceeds \$200, and will doubtless be raised in a few weeks to more than \$500. I had the pleasure, on two occasions, of conferring with the Managers of the State Society, and to observe the zeal and energy with which they are engaging in their labours for the cause.

At Granville, an interesting New England village of the west, I addressed a crowded congregation, (on Sabbath evening a week) and left our friends of the Auxiliary Society there earnestly engaged in obtaining funds, which I think will not fall short of one hundred dollars.

On Monday evening I submitted the object and wants of the Society to an audience in the flourishing town of Newark, where a Society also exists, and where a subscription was commenced, which the President assured me would not fall short of one hundred dollars.

On Tuesday I returned to Columbus, and on Wednesday went to Chillicothe, and in the evening addressed the friends of the Society, who resolved to adopt immediate measures to increase its resources. The wealth and liberality of this town afford reasons for expecting from it generous contributions.

I spent the last Sabbath in Springfield, and attended a large meeting of different denominations in the Methodist church in the evening. On Monday I met several warm-hearted ladies, who have formerly contributed to the cause, and who seem now disposed to reorganize their Society and renew their efforts. On Monday evening the Colonization Society of Clark county was reorganized as Auxiliary to the State Society, a subscription opened, and measures adopted to obtain funds for the cause. One hundred dollars (I hope double that sum) may soon be expected from this beautiful and prosperous town.

The wealthy and generous town of Xenia, at which I arrived this morning, has been for several years distinguished for its contributions to the Colonization Society. A meeting is called for to-morrow evening.

Should an able and active Agent be appointed by the State Society of Ohio, and visit and organize Auxiliary Associations in every County of the State, I have not a doubt that an annual income will be secured for the great object of the Society, of not less than ten thousand dollars.

On leaving Xenia, I propose to visit Dayton, and to be in Cincinnati on Thursday of next week. I have experienced so much hospitality and kindness, that I should find it impossible to express my gratitude (for want of space) but in general terms.

With great respect, gentlemen, your ob't. serv't.

R. R. GURLEY.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We have pleasure in inserting in the Repository, the following well-written letter of Mrs. MARY B. McGEHEE, Secretary of the Ladies' Benevolent Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Woodville, Mississippi, to the Rev. WILLIAM WINANS, of Centreville, Mississippi, communicating to him the contribution of said Society to constitute him a Life Member of the American Colonization Society, with his appropriate reply thereto:

Woodville, Oct. 15th, 1838.

REV. MR. WINANS:

Rev. and dear Sir—As the organ of the Ladies' Benevolent Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, it has been made my duty, and it is equally my pleasure, to address you by letter at this time. We beg leave to tender assurances of our individual regard and of our sense of personal obligation to one who has long ministered to us in holy things; and to request your acceptance of the enclosed sum, to constitute you a life member of the American Colonization Society, as a small testimony of our *united* friendship for you.

In choosing *this* Society as the channel through which to give you some manifestation of our esteem, and to afford some evidence (however small in itself) of our interest in the cause of Philanthropy, we have been impelled by the promptings of our own hearts, and by your well-known and uniform advocacy of that cause. For ourselves, most earnestly do we bid "God speed!" to the American Colonization Society. Our hearts warm in this cause. As patriots, we wish well to it; as philanthropists, it is dear to us, for it is dear to the interests of humanity: but as *parents and Christians*, it is dearer still. God grant that the American Colonization Society may be the day-star of a brighter era to benighted Africa and her suffering sons! God grant that it may carry light to men who have so long sat in darkness and sorrow, and that wilderness Ethiopia may yet "blossom as the rose!" While, as Christians, we humbly and hopefully look for the day of millennial glory, "when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ," we must feel that it is ours to labor for the accession of this glorious period; it is ours to retard or to accelerate its coming. And while contributing, in any way, to the planting of the Gospel in Africa, we feel that we are enlarging the heritage of our Redeemer. We look for the redemption of Africa from bondage, from Paganism, and from the power of the false prophet. We hope for it—we pray for it. As mothers, we are ready to devote our sons to this missionary field; and we trust to be enabled *in fact*, as well as *in feeling*, to echo the words of Coxe, who, from his death-pillow, could say, "Let thousands fall, but let not Africa be given up!"

God grant to you, Sir, abundant success in your labors for this cause!—May you plead for Africa, and plead successfully, until she shall rise from the dust, and put on "the garment of praise, for the spirit of heaviness"—until she shall take her place among the nations of the earth, and her sons and daughters become polished stones in the temple of our God!

With sentiments of regard,

We have the honor to subscribe ourselves

Your friends and sisters,

MARY B. McGEHEE,

Secretary for the Ladies' Benevolent Soc. of M. E. Church.

REV. WILLIAM WINANS, Woodville, Mi.

[ANSWER.]

At Home, Oct. 18, 1838.

MRS. MARY B. McGEHEE,

Sec. of the Ladies' Benevolent Soc. of M. E. Church:

Dear Sister—I have seldom been so highly gratified as I was by the receipt of your favor of the 15th inst., accompanying a contribution of the So-

ciety of which you are the organ, to make me a life member of the American Colonization Society. I should scarcely have known which to appreciate most highly, the contribution itself, or the very gratifying terms in which its being made was announced to me, were it not that I consider any, even the smallest, advancement of that cause, of incomparably more importance than any event that can concern myself personally.

To have acquired "the individual regard" of the members of your amiable Society, and to have obtained their approbation of my "ministry in holy things," are honors I value at a high rate; but when to these is added your kind recognition of my *consistent* advocacy of the *noblest* enterprise ever devised by man,—if, indeed, *this* owes its origin to human devising,—my gratification becomes too great for utterance.

Most heartily do I reciprocate the good wishes with which you greet my feeble efforts in advancing a cause which grounds its claims on the patriotism, humanity and religion of those to whom Heaven has granted the means of aiding in the redemption of the captive, the relief of the oppressed, the instruction of the ignorant, and the illumination, regeneration and salvation of Africa. May your example induce other ladies in this highly favored portion of our happy country to turn their benevolent regard to this important enterprize! It commends itself with peculiar emphasis to female benevolence. Here woman has the opportunity of winning her highest and holiest renown, as it is part of her highest glory to "open her mouth for the dumb."

Through you, dear sister, allow me to express to the Ladies' Benevolent Society my grateful sense of the honor they have done me, in making me, *for life*, a member of what I consider the noblest society, of human institution, on the face of the earth; and accept, for the members of the Society, and for yourself in particular, assurances of my sincere affection and high esteem.

WILLIAM WINANS.

MRS. MARY B. MCGEEHEE, *Sec'y, &c.*

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF LIBERIA.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society, January 5, 1839.

THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY hereby grants to the colonies or settlements in Liberia, on the Western coast of Africa, under its care, the following Constitution:

ARTICLE 1. The colonies or settlements of Monrovia, New Georgia, Caldwell, Millsburg, Marshall, Bexley, Bassa Cove, and Edina, and such other Colonies hereafter established by this Society, or by Colonization Societies adopting the Constitution of the American Colonization Society, on the Western coast of Africa, are hereby united into one Government, under the name and style of the Commonwealth of Liberia.

Legislative Power.

ART. 2. All legislative powers herein granted, shall be vested in a Governor and Council of Liberia; but all laws by them enacted shall be subject to the revocation of the American Colonization Society.

ART. 3. The Council shall consist of representatives to be elected by the people of the several colonies or settlements, and shall be apportioned

among them according to a just ratio of representation. Until otherwise provided, Monrovia, New Georgia, Caldwell, and Millsburg, shall be entitled to six representatives; and Marshall, Bexley, Bassa Cove, and Edina, to four representatives; to be apportioned among them by the Governor.

ART. 4. The representatives shall, in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of the Council, and in going to or returning from the same; and for any speech or debate therein, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

ART. 5. Until otherwise provided by law, the Governor shall appoint and publish the times, places, and manner of holding elections, and making returns thereof, and the time for the meeting of the Council.

ART. 6. The Governor shall preside at the deliberations of the Council, and shall have a veto on all their acts.

ART. 7. A Colonial Secretary shall be appointed by the Governor; and it shall be the duty of such Colonial Secretary to record in a book or books, all the official acts and proceedings of the Governor, of the Council, and of the Governor and Council; to secure and preserve the same carefully; and to transmit a copy of each of such acts or proceedings to the American Colonization Society, from time to time. Provided, however, that such acts and proceedings be so transmitted at least once a year.

ART. 8. A great seal shall be provided for the Commonwealth of Liberia, whereby the official and public acts of the Governor shall be authenticated; and the custody of the said seal shall be committed to the Colonial Secretary.

ART. 9. The Governor and Council shall have power to provide a uniform system of military tactics and discipline; to provide for organising, arming and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the Commonwealth:

To declare war in self-defence:

To make rules concerning captures on land and water:

To make treaties with the several African tribes, and to prescribe rules for regulating the commerce between the Commonwealth of Liberia and such tribes; except that all treaties for the acquisition of lands shall be subject to the approval of the American Colonization Society:

To prescribe uniform rules of naturalization for all persons of color. All persons now citizens of any part of the Commonwealth of Liberia shall continue to be so, and all colored persons emigrating from the United States of America, or any District or Territory thereof, with the approbation, or under the sanction of the American Colonization Society; or of any Society auxiliary to the same, or of any State Colonization Society of the United States, which shall have adopted the Constitution of the American Colonization Society, shall be entitled to all the privileges of citizens of Liberia; except the same shall have been lost or forfeited by conviction of some crime.

Executive Power.

ART. 10. The Executive power shall be vested in a Governor of Liberia, to be appointed by, and to hold his office during the pleasure of, the American Colonization Society.

ART. 11. The Governor shall be Commander-in-Chief of the Army, of the Navy, and of the Militia of the Commonwealth; he shall have power to call the Militia or any portion thereof into actual service, whenever the public exigency shall require; and he shall have the appointment of all

military and naval officers, except the captains and subalterns of militia companies, who may be elected by their respective companies.

ART. 12. The lands owned by the Society, and all other property belonging to the Society, and in the Commonwealth, shall be under the exclusive control of the Governor and such agents as he may appoint under the direction of the Society.

ART. 13. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, shall appoint all officers, whose appointment or election is not otherwise specially provided for in this Constitution.

ART. 14. There shall be a Lieutenant Governor, who shall be elected by the people in such manner as shall be provided by law. He shall exercise the office of Governor, in case of a vacancy in that office, occasioned by the Governor's death or resignation, or in case the Governor shall delegate to him the temporary authority of Governor during the Governor's absence or sickness.

Judicial Power.

ART. 15. The judicial power of the Commonwealth of Liberia shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Governor and Council may, from time to time, ordain and establish. The Governor shall be, *ex officio*, Chief Justice of Liberia, and as such shall preside in the Supreme Court, which shall have only appellate jurisdiction. The Judges, both of the Supreme and inferior Courts, except the Chief Justice, shall hold their offices during good behaviour.

ART. 16. A code or uniform system of civil and criminal law, shall be provided by the American Colonization Society for the Commonwealth of Liberia.

ART. 17. The present criminal laws in force in the several colonies or settlements now forming the Commonwealth of Liberia, and such others as may from time to time be enacted, shall constitute the criminal code of the Commonwealth. Such parts of the common law as set forth in Blackstone's Commentaries, as may be applicable to the situation of the people, except as changed by the laws now in force, and such as may hereafter be enacted, shall be the civil code of law for the Commonwealth.

Miscellaneous.

ART. 18. A great seal shall be provided for the Colonies, whereby the official and public acts of the Governor shall be authenticated; and the custody thereof shall be committed to the Colonial Secretary.

ART. 19. Until otherwise provided by law, the Commonwealth of Liberia shall be divided into two counties, as follows:—Monrovia, New Georgia, Caldwell and Millsburg, shall constitute one county, under the name of the county of *Montserado*; and Bassa Cove, Edina, Bexley and Marshall, shall constitute the other county, under the name of the county of *Grand Bassa*.

ART. 20. There shall be no slavery in the Commonwealth.

ART. 21. There shall be no dealing in slaves by any citizen of the Commonwealth, either within or beyond the limits of the same.

ART. 22. Emigration shall not be prohibited.

ART. 23. The right of trial by Jury, and the right of petition, shall be inviolate.

ART. 24. No person shall be debarred from prosecuting or defending any civil cause for or against himself or herself, before any tribunal in the Commonwealth, by himself or herself or counsel.

ART. 25. Every male citizen of the age of twenty-one years shall have the right of suffrage.

ART. 26. All elections shall be by ballot.

ART. 27. The military shall at all times and in all cases be in subjection to the civil power.

ART. 28. Agriculture, the mechanic arts, and manufactures, shall be encouraged within the Commonwealth; and commerce shall be promoted by such methods as shall tend to develop the agricultural resources of the Commonwealth, advance the moral, social and political interests of the people, increase their strength, and accelerate and firmly establish and secure their national independence.

ART. 29. The standards of weight, measure and money, used and approved by the Government of the United States of America, are hereby adopted as the standards of weight, measure and money within the Commonwealth of Liberia. But the Governor and Council shall have power to settle the value of the actual currency of the Commonwealth according to the metallic currency of the United States of America.

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MISSISSIPPI COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

In presenting to the Mississippi Colonization Society their Ninth Annual Report, the Executive Committee feel themselves called upon, as heretofore, to acknowledge, with devout thankfulness, the continued favor with which it has pleased Almighty God to smile upon their efforts to promote the interests of this Society.

They would record it as a mark of the signal goodness of God, that they are not called upon to report the death of a single one of the agents or officers of this Society, either in this country or in Africa, nor has a single death as yet been reported to them amongst our colonists.

At the last annual meeting of this Society, intelligence had been received from our colony as late as the 4th of August, 1837, communicating the fact of the arrival of Mr. Josiah Finley and Dr. J. L. Blodgett, the Governor and Physician of the colony, and of the preparations that had been made to receive them by Mr. Johnston, a colonist of Liberia, of singular merit, who had acted as our agent in taking possession of the territory, and commencing a settlement upon it. The Committee are happy to report, that since that time, repeated communications have been received from our colonial officers, giving a full report of the progress made in our colony up to the 30th July, 1838; and that these communications fully justify the flattering expectations held out by them in their letters of the 4th of August, 1837.

Our colonial Physician, Dr. J. L. Blodgett, left the colony in April last for the United States, for the benefit of his health. The personal interviews which this gentleman has had with different members of the Committee, and other friends of the cause, have put them in possession of much valuable information, and greatly enlivened their hopes of success.*

The recent arrival at the port of New Orleans of the brig Mail, from Greenville, has furnished us with further intelligence, of as late a date as the 30th July, 1838. Particular mention was made of this vessel in the last

* The Committee beg leave to annex as an appendix to this report, a communication from Dr. Blodgett, giving an interesting account of the soil, climate, character of the natives, &c. (A.)

annual report. She sailed from New Orleans the latter end of March, and arrived in safety, with her cargo and 37 emigrants, (two having been added to the number on the passage,) at Greenville, on the 9th July, having been detained a month at the Cape de Verd Islands, procuring working animals for the colony. The Mail returned by the way of the Cape de Verd Islands, and brought from thence a cargo of salt. Her voyage, though long, was prosperous; so much so as to warrant the belief that she may be profitably employed as a regular packet between this country and our colony. This arrangement will ensure to the Society a regular and more frequent intercourse between this country and Liberia, for the want of which much inconvenience has heretofore been experienced.

The brig Mail carried out the first company of emigrants that ever went directly from this country to Mississippi, in Africa; and her arrival there constitutes a memorable epoch in the history of that settlement. Upon her arrival there, our colony consisted of a solitary white man, and about twenty hired laborers from the older settlements of Liberia, who were employed by our agent in making arrangements for the comfortable settlement of our emigrants—clearing and planting lands—the construction of buildings, and the building of a small schooner, which had been commenced by our former agent, Mr. Johnston. The supply of means in our agent's hands had never been sufficient to enable him to conduct the business of the Society to advantage, and is at present very much reduced. Many months had elapsed without his having heard from the United States, and that intelligence was not of a very encouraging nature. The period at which vessels usually arrive in Liberia from New Orleans, had nearly passed away, and our agent began to entertain serious fears whether another year must not elapse before the arrival of a reinforcement to the colony.

It must be borne in mind that our agents left this country in the spring of 1837, when the pecuniary pressure and panic was so great, that the Committee forbore either to press the collection of subscriptions then due the Society, or to obtain, on the credit of the Society, an outfit large enough to enable them to carry into full effect the enlarged plan of operations they had marked out for themselves.

But, notwithstanding these obstacles to the progress of our colonial affairs, our emigrants found, upon their arrival, that ample preparations had been made for their comfortable settlement in their new home; an abundant supply of rice, cassada, potatoes, and other African vegetables, had been provided for their support; their farms laid off, and a part of their lands cleared and under cultivation; and the preparation for the erection of their houses so far advanced, that our colonial agent expressed the opinion, that in less than three weeks from the departure of the Mail for the United States, each family would be settled upon his own land, and in his own house.—Consequently, the emigrants were all satisfied with their reception, and highly pleased with their prospects; and our agent was so well pleased with the arrival of the emigrants, the handsome manner in which they were provided for, and the liberal supply with which the Committee had furnished him for sustaining and enlarging the society's operations in the colony, as to cause him to say, emphatically, "I hope our most trying times are now over."

In order to ensure to our emigrants a supply of provisions upon their arrival, without the expense of sending them from the United States, our agent had commenced the cultivation of a public farm in the colony. In accomplishing this important object, he had many difficulties to contend with—his own feeble health; the unfaithfulness of the hired men who were employed to work on the farm, at the distance of several miles from Greenville, the principal scene of his labors; and lastly, the thievish character of the

Fishmen, (a native tribe on the beach, whose principal occupation is fishing,) who plundered the crops of cassada and potatoes as fast as they came to maturity.

On this subject, our agent writes, under date of April 12th, as follows, viz: "We have done a little at farming; but the pretended fear of the natives amongst the hired men, the many other things I have had to attend to, together with four or five weeks' sickness, have prevented me from doing as much as I might, under more favorable circumstances, have very easily done. The thievish Fishmen have stolen two or three acres of cassada and potatoes; and the only reason why they have not stolen more, is because it has not yet come to perfection. We have planted twelve or fifteen acres in cassada, which will probably yield from one to two hundred bushels to the acre, if an expedition comes out within two months to take care of it; otherwise, much of it will be lost. Besides this cassada, we have planted a considerable quantity of potatoes, plantains, bananas, limes, oka, papaya, and some yams, beans, and other vegetables peculiar to this country."

Our agent was directed to have an eye to the development of the agricultural resources of the country, in locating the emigrants, and in distributing to them their farms. In accomplishing this object, he changed the location of the town from the barren sands on the sea shore to a place four miles up the river, and about two miles in a direct line from the ocean, where the lands are fertile and well watered, and sufficiently near the ocean to enjoy the sea breeze. Here he intends not only to settle the emigrants, but also to establish the agency house and public store. For where these are, there will the emigrants be most desirous of locating.

The agricultural operations of the colony have been heretofore much impeded by the want of working animals to assist them in their labors.—Horses abound far in the interior of the African continent, but cannot be procured on the coast. In order to supply this deficiency, the brig Mail was directed, on her outward passage, last spring, to stop at one of the Cape de Verd Islands, and procure thirty horses, jacks and mules, for the use of the colony. Thirty-two jacks and one horse were obtained, but thirteen of the jacks died on the passage from the Island to the coast.

The arrival of these animals occasioned great rejoicing in our settlement, and was hailed as the harbinger of a more advanced state of agriculture than has heretofore been witnessed in any of the Americo-African colonies. The Committee deem it of the highest importance to furnish our settlements with a full supply of working animals, and intend to persevere until the demand is satisfied, as well for the purpose of breeding as for that of labor.

It is a favorable omen of our future success, and the Committee would advert to the fact with humble and lively gratitude to the Giver of all good, that He has been pleased to preserve the health of our colonists, and to encourage their hearts to hope for success in the formation of a settlement in the land of their fathers. They were all in good health at the time of the departure of the Mail, (30th July,) except Robert Leiper, an aged and highly respected man, who had long been a resident of this city, but sailed in the last expedition for our colony. He had an attack of the fever shortly after his arrival at Greenville; but on the 28th July, our colonial agent writes, that "Leiper's fever had left him—he is perfectly satisfied, and in high spirits." Leiper took with him his daughter-in-law, a very respectable woman, and her two children. He has left a numerous offspring, and a very large circle of acquaintance amongst the free people of color of Natchez, who were looking with interest for the report he might send them concerning the country of his adoption. It is said that the letters received from him by the return of the vessel and other concurring favorable testimony,

have determined several of them to make arrangements to follow as soon as practicable.

Our agent says of the emigrants sent out by Mr. Anketel, "I have no doubt they will do well—that they are perfectly well satisfied, and had, some time before the vessel left for the United States, commenced building their houses, and making preparations for a permanent settlement upon their farms. He expresses himself as having great confidence in William Bonner, who had been employed in this country as a foreman upon Mr. Anketel's plantation. Our agent also speaks in high terms of Edward Morris, who was provided with a munificent outfit by his former master, Mr. Carson, of this county. Morris is extensively and favorably known by the planters of Adams county, from the fidelity and ability with which he managed his master's plantation for many years. James Railey, Esq., who employed Morris on one of his plantations the year previously to his departure from this country, and under whose superintendence he was sent to the colony, has favored us with a letter from him, which, as it contains some valuable items of intelligence, we beg leave to annex as an appendix to this report. (B.)

In conformity with the wishes expressed by the late James Green, Esq., the emigrants that were sent from his estate, and sailed for Liberia in the brig *Rover*, in the spring of 1835, were invited by your Committee to settle in the Mississippi Colony, and some facilities for their doing so were offered, in order to compensate them for the sacrifices they would necessarily make in leaving their present homes. The greater part, the Committee are happy to learn, have accepted their proposal. They are enterprising, industrious, intelligent, and moral, and doubtless will form an important accession to the strength and respectability of our colony, and will prove especially valuable as pioneers to such of their friends and acquaintances as may hereafter remove from this State to Liberia. The Rev. Gloster Simpson, formerly of Claiborne county, an eminently pious and excellent preacher, who emigrated in the same vessel with Mr. Green's people, has also, at the urgent request of his friends in this State, consented to remove to our colony, in the hope of being useful to future emigrants from Mississippi, many of whom will doubtless be of his acquaintance, and subject, more or less, to his influence, which they feel assured he will exert for useful ends.

But while the Committee have been thus induced, by peculiar circumstances, to encourage the emigrants, originally from our own State, to remove from the Mother Colony to the Mississippi settlement, yet they wish it to be distinctly understood that, as a general rule, they do not intend to encourage the emigration to our colony of persons from the sister colonies, nor even to permit it, except under strict limitations.

The principal want of our colony at present seems to be emigrants. To supply this want, the Committee are preparing to send an expedition, to sail from New Orleans on the 15th January, with upwards of an hundred emigrants. This will be nearly as large a number as it would be proper to introduce into our infant settlement at one time. It will afford a sufficient number, in addition to those who are already there, for the advantageous organization of a civil government, and for the carrying on successfully of most of those branches of useful industry which are necessary to the comfort, respectability and well-being of a civilized community. Should a kind Providence favor their plans in the transportation and settlement of these emigrants, and give success to their other efforts in promoting the prosperity of the colony for another year, they firmly believe that the colony will then be placed, with the ordinary blessing of Almighty God upon it, beyond the

reach of retrograde movement; that in fact it will possess within itself all the elements of successful growth, and of progressive improvement.

But while the Committee have taken measures for the advancement of the above-named important interests, they have by no means been unmindful of the still greater importance of fostering in our colony the interests of education and religion. Indeed they consider that the surest and cheapest way of securing permanent and extensive success to the cause of African Colonization, will be to establish and cherish a well regulated system for the improvement of the intellectual, moral and religious character of the colonists.

They have therefore instructed their colonial agent to take immediate measures for the establishment of a school to educate the children of the colonists. They have also invited the missionary societies of the different religious denominations in the United States to establish missions upon our territory, both for the benefit of the native and colonial population. They have also offered to their missionaries going to our colony to reside, a free passage in any vessel sent by them to the colony.

Our past success encourages us not only to persevere in the work so auspiciously commenced, but to renew our zeal and diligence in a cause so holy and so full of bright hopes to two continents, and to both races of people. Many serious difficulties have already been overcome, never, we hope, again to be encountered. Among these, we may mention the irregular and unfrequent intercourse between this country and our colony. This difficulty is for the present at an end, and the brig Mail is intended to run as a regular packet between New Orleans and Greenville. And should we be furnished with the means successfully to develop the commercial resources of our colony, it would not be many years before several vessels could be profitably employed in the direct trade from New Orleans to Liberia. Indeed at this time our colonial agent writes, that if he were furnished with a proper supply of goods for native trade, he could purchase from two to three thousand bushels of rice, and from one to three thousand gallons of palm oil, besides a considerable quantity of ivory, tortoise shell and camwood. It is said by the natives that there are forests of this valuable dye wood (worth, in New York, \$70 per ton) within thirty miles of Greenville. If we had the means of cutting a wagon road into the region of this wood, and furnishing teams to transport it to the coast, it would not only furnish a return cargo for our emigrant vessels, but also furnish to our Society, and to our colonists, a valuable article of exchange for the commodities required for our colony from the United States and from England. The Committee expect to increase the commercial exports of the colony, by encouraging the production of several other valuable articles, which are known to flourish well—such as arrow root, sugar and coffee. There are said to be seven varieties of this last named article, growing wild in the woods of Western Africa, one species of which, much resembling the Java in appearance and flavor, has been known to produce, in the neighborhood of Cape Messurado, 30 pounds to the tree—about six times as much as it produces in any other part of the world.—They are beginning to cultivate this article with success in some of the older settlements of Liberia; and the Committee have instructed our colonial agent to cultivate a plantation of it on account of the Society, which, it is supposed, in three or four years, will yield to the Society a considerable revenue.

We may also mention, among the difficulties overcome, and the corresponding opposite advantages gained, during the past year, the unfrequent and irregular communication between our colony and other colonies on the coast. This difficulty has been removed by the completion of the schooner Natchez, built at the port of Greenville. She made her first trip to Monrovia in July last, where her appearance was hailed with great satisfaction; and

from which place she returned to Greenville, with a large number of passengers. The overcoming of these two great difficulties alone, together with the corresponding advantages that may grow out of them, will greatly promote the interest of our colony, and the comfort of its population.

The Committee are happy to believe that their enterprise is viewed with increasing interest by the people of our own beloved State, and that their liberality in sustaining it will increase in the same proportion.

Past experience confirms the Committee in the propriety of the course which they have adopted, of expending their resources *principally* in developing the resources of the country, in promoting the comfort and prosperity of the few colonists they may send out, rather than exhaust their resources upon the transportation of a large number of emigrants inadequately provided for.

The Committee believe that if they can make their colony a comfortable asylum for our people of color, and secure a brisk commercial intercourse between this country and our colony, our free people of color will find their way thither in the ordinary channels of commercial intercourse, without any expense to us, and with but little inconvenience to themselves.

In view of all these facts, the Committee would conclude their report as they commenced it, with a devout acknowledgment to Almighty God for the signal favor which He has vouchsafed to their labors, and with fervent prayers for the continuance of His blessing.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Natchez, Dec. 12, 1838.

(A.)

DR. BLODGETT'S REPORT.

The settlement commenced by the Mississippi State Colonization Society in Africa is situated on the northern bank of the Sinoe river, at its junction with the ocean, about five degrees North of the equator. It is about 150 miles lower down the coast than Monrovia, and about midway between Bassa Cove and Cape Palmas. This spot was selected by Mr. Johnson, former governor of the colony, and has since been laid off in lots, and received the name of Greenville.

The territory purchased for the use of the emigrants, and which has received the name of Mississippi in Africa, has the Sinoe river bounding it on the southeast. It is narrow on the ocean, but becomes wider as you advance into the interior, and is estimated to contain a little more than three thousand square miles. It includes all the territory of the Sinoe tribe of natives.

Having resided nearly one year in the country, I am enabled to testify to the great fertility of its soil, and the healthfulness of its climate. As an evidence of the latter, it may be mentioned, that the native towns situated within it are universally healthy. I have never seen any prevailing epidemic among them, and they appear to have but little sickness; fevers are hardly known among them. The people are strong and muscular, capable of enduring the greatest exertions and privations without fatigue. The small pox is the greatest scourge known on the coast. It probably destroys more of the natives than all other diseases united. The country in the neighborhood of Sinoe was nearly depopulated by it a few years since. The laborers employed in the colony, although subjected to much exposure, have been universally healthy. There have been two or three cases of fever in an intermittent form, which yielded in a short time to very mild treatment.

The soil, after leaving the beach one or two miles, becomes very fertile, and will not suffer by comparison with the best lands in the State of Mississippi. Its intervals are not different in appearance or fertility from those on the banks of the Mississippi. The uplands also are very fertile; they are gently undulating, and in some places hilly, producing abundant crops even in the unskilful hands of the natives.

The country is every where densely timbered, except where the forest has been removed by the natives for the purposes of cultivation. It produces a great variety of trees, among which are several species of teak, or African oak, much esteemed in Europe for ship building; large quantities of this timber are exported from the coast for this purpose. The palm tree is also abundant; it is a very useful tree, producing, beside other things, the palm oil of commerce, much used in this country. A tree yielding the gum elastic is also abundant. Plantains, bananas and pine apples are produced with little cultivation; the latter production is indigenous to the soil—also the coffee tree; rice and Indian corn are cultivated with great success by the natives. Camwood is also exported from the coast; it comes from a short distance in the interior.

The climate, most of the year, is very agreeable, the mercury seldom, if ever, rising above 90, or falling below 70 of Fahrenheit: this remark is intended to apply only to the country bordering on the coast; it is undoubtedly much warmer in the interior. When the sun is to the southward of the equator, we have the dry season; but at this season we have sufficient rain for all the purposes of agriculture, three days rarely passing in succession without showers of rain. This is also the season for thunder, the tornado of Africa being nothing more than a shower, attended with thunder, in which the wind is never very violent. I have never discovered any wind-falls, or timber prostrated by wind, in the country.

As the sun travels north of the equator, and becomes vertical, we have the rainy season. At this season, the sky is overcast with clouds, and a strong and steady breeze blows constantly from the ocean, and rather up the coast, both night and day. The principal part of the rain falls in the month of May, as the sun becomes vertical in going north, and in the month of September, when it becomes so in going south; the intermediate season, or season between the months of May and September, is usually termed the half-dry season, and, although cloudy, very little rain falls at this time. The months of July and August are among the pleasantest of the year.

The navigation of the coast is dangerous at no season of the year. Trading vessels usually linger on the coast several months each voyage; and during the whole time, they never enter a port, and yet are never out of sight of land. There is scarce a day in the year that you cannot land in perfect safety with a jolly boat on the beach, wherever the coast is free from rocks. The ocean is always so smooth, that the Fishmen venture out upon it, and do not fail a single day in the year to obtain their supply of fish.

This country has sometimes been represented as being infested with all sorts of reptiles and dangerous animals; but so far from this being the case, no person, so far as I can learn, has been harmed by either, since the settlement of the colonies. Centipedes and scorpions are common—the people are sometimes stung by them—I have been stung myself several times—but there is no more fear or danger in it than there is in the sting of a bee.

In short, the country wants nothing but industry to make it a place of delightful residence. Instead of being deluged by rain, parched by heat and drought, infested with wild beasts and serpents, covered with deserts, desolated with pestilence, and overwhelmed with tornadoes and whirlwinds, it is a country which nature has labored to make as delightful as any other.

The Sinoe river is navigable, and has never less than three fathoms of water from the distance of 15 miles from the ocean, after which the current becomes rapid, and the channel is obstructed by rocks. In the rainy season, there are 18 feet of water on the bar at the entrance; but in the dry season, the channel fills up, so that, at low tide, vessels drawing more than eight feet cannot pass in safety—but at high tide, those drawing 12 feet can always pass into the river without difficulty, unless the wind is unfavorable. The river discharges itself into a small bay, which is formed by a projecting headland upon the south side. Sinoe river is acknowledged by all navigators on the coast to afford the best harbor to be found between Sierra Leone and the Bight of Benin. The river abounds in fish, as also the bay and the ocean in the vicinity.

The natives residing in the territory are principally Zantees; their numbers may be estimated at about fifteen hundred. They are divided into two tribes; the Fishmen, amounting in number to about one thousand, sustain themselves by fishing, as their name implies. They live in one village upon the beach, and close by the settlement. The Sinoe people compose the remainder of the population. They live in three or four small villages, a short distance in the interior, and sustain themselves by agriculture. The Sinoe people were the original owners of the soil. They have always manifested a great desire for improvement, for schools. They desire to live Merica fash, as they term it, and have always been friendly to the colony.—The Fishmen are also anxious for schools, but they are much addicted to idleness and theft, and have at times manifested some hostility to the colony. They are also of rather unsettled habits, frequently changing their places of residence. They are fond of ardent spirits, but seldom drink to intoxication. The Fishmen might probably be induced to quit the country for a small remuneration, if thought advisable.

The Sinoe people produce large quantities of rice. From one to two thousand bushels of this article might be obtained of them annually, should it be advisable or necessary to do so. Their plantations are extensive—sometimes they contain more than one hundred acres. This fact is important, inasmuch as they are willing to give up these lands to the use of the emigrants, for very little or no remuneration. This will consequently save much of the expense of opening lands for cultivation, and in giving the colonists a start at the commencement of the settlement.

The houses constructed by the Colonization Society at Greenville are—two store houses, each of two stories, framed—the upper stories are occupied for dwelling houses; two-story log dwelling house; one also of one story completed; five other log dwellings completed, with the exception of the roof; a framed carpenter's shop, suitable for a dwelling; also a smith's shop, and a house for emigrants, containing four apartments; and there are also three bamboo houses, which make comfortable dwellings. The bushes have been cleared from about fifty acres of ground surrounding the establishment at Greenville.

A site for a public farm was selected on the river, about two miles from the beach, which has been planted in cassada, sweet potatoes and rice; of these articles we had about fifteen acres growing at the time I left the colony.

Fifteen farm lots were also laid off for emigrants in the neighborhood of the public farm; an old native plantation was divided in such a manner as to give about five acres of cleared ground to each farm. Preparations were making for the erection of log dwellings for the accommodation of emigrants who should be placed upon these farms.

(B.)

*Greenville, July 17, 1838.***Mr. JAMES RAILEY :**

Sir—I embrace this opportunity of addressing you with a few lines ; and I hope that these lines will find you and the family in good health. We arrived here on the 9th July, after a very long and tiresome passage, though we stopped four weeks at the Cape de Verd Islands. We had to go to three of the Islands before we could get the jacks and jennies, namely, St. Nicholas, St. Jago, and St. Vincent ; at the last named island we got the animals, 31 jacks and jennies and one horse—the horse I got for myself. The average price of jacks and jennies was about four dollars and fifty cents. I gave one barrel of flour and one hundred pounds of tobacco, which was twenty-five dollars. We had very bad luck with our jacks and jennies, for we lost 13 out of 31.

We arrived at Monrovia on the 1st day of July, and left on the 4th for this place. It is called one hundred and fifty miles from Monrovia to Greenville. We stayed at Monrovia three days, but I had not the pleasure of seeing David Carter, nor any of his people ; they were all at Millsburgh. It rained every day while we were there ; and in consequence of having the horses on board, we could not leave the pork and flour, but I sent it back by the brig Mail, and in care of G. Simpson, who came down with us. Mr. G. Simpson promised me that he would do his best to get David Carter and his people to move down here, and also he will move himself, if he can without great loss. Mrs. S. Armstrong is dead—all the rest are well. I saw a man that was just from Millsburgh.

There is plenty of timber here, and a few people. Lumber and carpenters very much wanted. We found about twenty people here when we came. The vessel which you heard so much talk about had been launched three days before we arrived. There are cattle here, but they are very small ; plenty of palm oil, camwood, rice, chickens, ducks, and some ivory. The natives appear to be friendly, but I do not feel safe, because there are so few of us. I wish that one hundred emigrants could be sent out this year. We want force very much. I went to the farm on the 19th, and I was agreeably disappointed when I got there, for the land is better than I expected to find it. It is much like the land in your creek or village fields ; it is a mixture of sand and soil, but much blacker than yours. I think, when this land is put under cultivation, it will bring a good crop. Sugar cane grows very well here.

Farewell. Respectfully,

EDWARD MORRIS.

Troy sends respects to all the family. He is not doing much of any thing yet. He is very well, and so we all are.

E. M.

MANUMISSION OF SLAVES AT THE SOUTH.

JOHN REA, an aged and respectable citizen of Raleigh, North Carolina, (originally from Germantown, Pennsylvania,) lately died, and left all his colored people, about twenty in number, free, on condition that they agree to emigrate to Liberia, under the care of the American Colonization Society ; directing his plantation, tanyard, and other property to be sold, and the proceeds thereof to be appropriated to pay the expenses of the voyage, and to provide for them a comfortable settlement in the Colony. As the males are

experienced farmers or tanners, they will, we have no doubt, prove a valuable acquisition to Liberia, and soon become respectable freeholders in their fatherland.

The deceased left another portion of his property for the erection of an Infirmary in the vicinity of Raleigh, for the relief of such poor and sickly persons as may seek an asylum there.


ARRIVAL OF THE BRIG MAIL, AND SAILING OF THE SHIP SALUDA.

The brig Mail, recently from Liberia, brings the melancholy news of the death of Governor Finley, of the Mississippi colony. A letter received by a gentleman in this country from James Brown, acting agent of the Mississippi colony, gives the following particulars:

"About the 10th September, the Governor left Greenville for Monrovia, on business, as well as for his health. On his way, he attempted to visit Bassa Cove. Landing about two miles below the settlement, he was robbed and murdered by the natives. The Governor seems to have placed too much confidence in a native whom he had with him, and to whom he had exposed the fact of his having a sum of money about him. The faithlessness of this fellow, in disclosing the circumstance of the money, no doubt occasioned the murder."

The death of the Governor seems to have led to a war between the natives and the settlers of Bassa Cove, who had one or two of their people killed, and several wounded, and some of their houses destroyed.

We regret to hear of any occurrence calculated to disturb the peaceful relations existing between the colonists and natives; and, while we wait, with much anxiety, a full report of all the circumstances attending this unhappy affair, it is very gratifying to learn that the ship Saluda, purchased for the American Colonization Society, and fully manned by a colored crew, sailed from Norfolk on the 22d ultimo, with emigrants for Bassa Cove, and a large supply of stores for the colony. Thos. Buchanan also has gone out in the Saluda, as Governor of all the colonies or settlements made in Liberia by the American Colonization Society, and the Pennsylvania and New York Societies, which have been united under one government, under the style of "the Commonwealth of Liberia." And we deem it a most favorable Providence, that Governor Buchanan has been enabled, by the very liberal policy adopted by the head of the Navy Department in relation to our African colonies, to carry out a full supply of cannon, small arms, ammunition and boats. Thus supplied, and with the control of a ship, the Governor will be able to give immediate relief to any settlement that may be menaced; and, as he is known and beloved by the headmen and kings in the vicinity of our colonies, we doubt not he will be able soon to settle all difficulties.—And when the colonies are organized under one government, their power of defence will be much increased, and their favor more courted by the native kings. But what will give entire security to our colonies, is an armed vessel which the Government is about sending to cruise on the coast of Africa, for the protection of our trade; and, when there, no doubt, it will enforce the laws for the suppression of the slave trade—only for which, the natives would engage in peaceful avocations.

 The "List of Contributions" is postponed, for want of room. It shall appear in our next.